

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	64069	Agenda Number	2.
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Meeting Date:	11/3/2016	Department:	Austin Energy
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Subject

Authorize issuance of a rebate to 78741 Holdings, LP, for the installation of solar electric systems on 20 residential units at its Las Cimas mixed-use development at 2101 Montopolis Drive, for a total amount not to exceed \$101,760. (District 3)

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Danielle Murray, Solar Program Manager (512) 322-6055.
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	<p>October 17, 2016 – Recommended unanimously on consent by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioner Ferchill off the dais, Commissioners Mahmood and Roa absent and one vacancy.</p> <p>October 18, 2016 – Recommended unanimously on consent by the Resource Management Commission on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Gill, Madison and White off the dais, Commissioner Saum absent and one vacancy.</p>
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

Austin Energy requests authorization to enter into an agreement with 78741 Holdings, LP, to provide incentives, for a total amount not to exceed \$101,760, for the installation of solar electric systems at its Las Cimas development located at 2101 Montopolis Drive in Council District 3.

The solar PV (photovoltaic) systems will be installed on 20 free-standing residential condominium units in the mixed use development. The ownership of the PV systems will transfer to the buyers of the individual condominium units. The solar incentive level is \$0.80 per watt-DC. The 20 installations will have a total capacity of 106 kW-AC (5.3 kW-ac each). The total installation cost is \$381,600 and the incentive is expected to cover up to 27% of the total cost.

The Las Cimas project will earn a 5-Star Austin Energy Green Building certificate—the highest award possible. In addition to the solar PV systems, many sustainable design features will reduce the need for energy and resource use including:

- Advanced wood framing methods to reduce use of wood resources and maximize cavity spaces available for insulation;
- High performance thermal envelope – continuous insulation sheathing at exterior walls, insulated window and door headers, high efficiency glazing, and open cell foam at roof deck and exterior walls;
- Central A/C systems with inverter technology and rotary compressors for high efficiency and variable speed comfort;
- Complete LED lighting packages for all recessed cans and lighting;
- EnergyStar-rated ceiling fans, exhaust fans, and appliances;
- 650 gallon rain water collection at every unit;
- Water-wise listed, high-efficiency plumbing fixtures for all locations; and
- Xeriscaped yards and community gardens requiring no additional irrigation.

Austin Energy's solar program helps meet the community's solar goal of 950 MW by 2025, including 200 MW of local solar capacity, established in the updated Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan approved by City Council in December 2014. The solar program is designed to reduce the amount of electricity Austin Energy must purchase from the market and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.

These energy improvements will generate an estimated 175,834 kWh per year—enough to power 16 average Austin homes for a year. Each year, this project is estimated to prevent the production of the following air pollutants: 116 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂); 147 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂); 162 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x); and 113 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO). These emissions reductions are equivalent to planting 2,712 trees or 136 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 237,056 vehicle miles or 20 cars from Austin roadways.

The Austin City Council launched Austin Energy's original solar photovoltaic (PV) rebate incentive program in 2004 (Resolution 040527-06) to benefit Austin residents and utility customers by: promoting the use of an environmentally-friendly and energy efficient renewable energy resource; promoting economic development for the development, recruitment and retention of renewable energy enterprises; and ensuring that Austin remains a local, national and international leader in the development and use of renewable energy.